

# SEVERE WEATHER

## Are You Ready?

Is a series of handouts designed to assist you and your family to plan ahead for emergencies.



For more information on Severe Weather— Check out these Helpful websites:



[www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)



Washington County Emergency Services/ Emergency Management 33 W. Washington St. Hagerstown, MD 21740 240-313-2930



[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)



[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)



[www.hhs.gov](http://www.hhs.gov)



[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

# Are You Ready?

WASHINGTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



JULY 2005

## Severe Weather: Thunderstorms, Flash Flooding & Tornadoes



### In a Thunderstorm:

- ⚡ Avoid handling metal, electrical equipment, telephones, bathtubs, water faucets and sinks because lightning can follow the wires and pipes. Be especially careful with televisions.
- ⚡ If there is a severe thunderstorm, take cover immediately in a stable facility, but avoid trees.



### In a Flash Flood:

- ⚡ Seek high ground. Never attempt to drive your vehicle through standing water.

### In a Tornado:

- ⚡ Go to your basement or the lowest point of your residence, or an interior room or hallway without windows. If you cannot find shelter, take cover in a ditch or other recessed area.

**IF YOU ARE ASKED TO EVACUATE, DO SO IMMEDIATELY!**

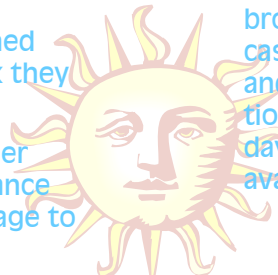
### SOME MEASURES TO HELP YOU WEATHER MAJOR STORMS:

- ⚡ Shutter or board windows.
- ⚡ Secure outdoor objects such as lawn furniture or garbage cans that could blow away and cause damage or injury.
- ⚡ Never touch or go near downed power lines, even if you think they are safe.
- ⚡ In extreme conditions, consider shutting off power and appliance gas switches to prevent damage to your appliances.



### DURING SEVERE WEATHER:

- ⚡ Dress appropriately for weather conditions.
- ⚡ Stay updated by watching TV or listening to the radio. The National Weather Service broadcasts forecasts, warnings and other information 24 hours a day. Special weather radios are available at local retail stores.



**W**eather is monitored closely by various government agencies. Severe weather should be taken seriously—it can be dangerous and harm both you and your property.

### National Weather Service Terms:

#### Severe Thunderstorm Watch:

There is potential for thunderstorms to form that can produce wind gusts greater than 58 mph and/or hail greater than 3/4 of an inch in diameter.

#### Severe Thunderstorm Warning:

A Severe thunderstorm is occurring.

#### Tornado Watch:

A tornado could form in the next few hours.

#### Tornado Warning:

A tornado has been reported and/or the National Weather Service radar has detected a tornado or tornadic signature.

#### Flash Flood Watch:

Localized flooding due to heavy rainfall is possible.

#### Flash Flood Warning:

Localized flooding due to heavy rainfall is imminent.

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